ALTERNATIVES
*4
FANDOM'S MONTHLY REVIEW MAGAZINE!
Howarth '72

25¢

EDITOR'S CRACKS...

Hello,

I'm waiting for comments on ALTERNATIVES. Good? Bad? I wanna' know! I also want your opinions on the various columns herein, and suggestions.

You will be noticing several things in the future. I'll be doing most of the Fanzine reviews, along with our host body in residence, Rich Adamson. On the other hand, Arthur will be doing most of the Book reviews. I think that, this way, we may each do our best in our respective fields. I will be doing nearly all of the odd columns, while Art is handling mostly special articles. Outside reviews are going to be from people I know are objective, and will only be done on zines I receive for review.

With this issue I hope to begin mailing unfolded copies in an envelope so they are in better shape when you receive them. This will,in addition, permit me to feature a full cover illustration.

At this time, I want to apologize for the sloppy printing job on last issue. As of this issue, I am using a new printer. As a result, it may be better—or worse. It may also be a bit later than usual. If it is, I apologize again.

Best,

Rickey

BACK ISSUES (25¢@): #2 & #3 SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR #'s 5-8: $1.00

DEDICATION: To Barbara...for being good company, interesting, & predictably impredictable!

EDITOR// Rickey L. Shanklin ASSOCIATE EDITOR// Arthur Phillips

REVIEWERS THIS ISSUE::: Arthur Phillips, Richard Adamson, Rickey L. Shanklin

RATING CODES

0 * bird-cage liner!
1 * your money!
2 * very poor
3 * poor
4 * fair
5 * good
6 * very good
7 * fine
8 * excellent
9 * buy it now, before it's sold out!

ALTERNATIVES * 4 * NOVEMBER * 1972 * All Rights Reserved *

4205½ Fitch Avenue * Baltimore, Maryland * 21236 *

FANZINES...

8-LOCUS * bi-weekly * SF zine * 12/$3 * Charlie & Dena Brown, 3400 Ulloa Street San Francisco, California, 94116 *****

9-THE BUYER'S GUIDE * bi-weekly * adzine * FREE * Dynapubs Enterprises, RR # 1 East Moline, Illinois, 61244

9-ETCETERA & THE COMIC READER * comic news zine * monthly * 3/$1 * Paul Levitz, 393 East 58th Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11203*

8-GRAPHIC STORY WORLD * comic news zine * bi-monthly * 50¢ * Richard Kyle, PO Box 16168, Long Beach, California, 90806*

8-ROCKET'S BLAST/COMICOLLECTOR * monthly * ad/article zine * $1 * The S.F.C.A. 9875 SW 212 Street, Miami, Florida, 33157

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5-COMICS IN THE NEWS * #1 * $1 * offset * 32pages * published ? * newspaper column reprint zine * 7x4¼ * side stapled * Bruce Dunn, 919 Hayes Park, Kalamazoo Michigan, 49001 *

The choice of newspaper columns on comics is good, but the printing ranges from good to fair. Bruce has managed to include a wide sampling of topics covered by the papers, from cartoons to undergrounds.

If you happen to be a trivia nut, this zine's for you. If not,you might enjoy it just the same. The price is a bit high, but everybody has to make a buck, right?

/Richard Adamson

9-SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS CREATED BY RAY HARRYHAUSEN (FXRH) * #1 * $ 1 * offset * 60pages * published irregularly * photo/ article/ news zine devoted to the art of Ray Harryhausen * saddle stitched,wraparound glossy semi-color cover *8½x11 * Talos Publications, 3030 Ellen Street, Irving, Texas, 75062 *

To date,this is the finest publication to cross my desk,all things considered. The quality of the printing, the layout, the subject matter, the price , the flawless reproduction of the photographs—all are top-notch! I have difficulty believing that this is a fan publication, because it's better than half of the magazines on the market.

The cover itself is worth the dollar. It's a fantastic painting of one Harryhausen monster (The Hydra) coming unwound from a reel of film. The back cover is a collage of the Cyclops(from The Seventh Voyage Of Sinbad),and Ray Harryhausen himself. The inside front has three photos: one from Mysterious Island, one from 20,000,000 Miles To Earth, and one I don't recognize. The inside back cover depicts several frames from Three Worlds Of Gulliver,and Ray holding one of the monsters from the flick.

Included in the issue are: ACKERMAN ON HARRYHAUSEN..RAY HARRYHAUSEN VISITS THE GOTHIQUE FILM SOCIETY..A SPECIAL FEATURE ON RAY..AN EDITORIAL..HARRYHAUSEN & CHARLES SCHNEER..HARRYHAUSEN'S 5th 16mm FAIRY TALE: HANSEL AND GRETEL..PART TWO OF AN EXTENSIVE ARTICLE ON JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS..A CRITIQUE OF THE 8mm HOME MOVIES..BERNARD HERRMANN & THE MUSIC SCORE FROM JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS.. A CRITIQUE OF THE SCREENPLAY IN LIGHT OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS: JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS..CAST, CREDITS, REVIEWS & FILMOGRAPHIES..TRIVIA..ADS RELATED TO THE OVERALL THEME..AND MORE...

There are 76 inside photos, including a frame-by-frame fight scene between Jason and a skeleton. 21 illustrations appear, many of which are preliminary drawings for Ray's final models.

(continued on following page.....)

News abounds, also. Did you know that the saucers from Earth vs. The Flying Saucers were made of balsa wood? Did you know that Ray Harryhausen was the animator behind Mighty Joe Young?? Did you know that Ray Harryhausen was Willis (King Kong) O'Brien's head animator for years??? If you had read FXRH, you would have, dummy!

On top of all this, you get a free still from Seventh Voyage Of Sinbad, preautographed by Ray Harryhausen. Buy it.....you'll like it!

/Rickey L. Shanklin

7-MELTING POT *#4 * 25¢ * offset * 14pages * published quarterly * Canadian fandom zine * 8½x11 * stapled twice on left edge of cover * Larry Mitchell, 3908-26 Street, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada *

The cover is a very nice rendition of Doctor Doom and the Iron Maiden(from Tower comics), in the style of Wally Wood.

The back cover is an equally nice illo of the Creeper, Ditko style.

Miscellaneous news items, a report on the Kitchener Con, several pages of ads and an article on the Canadian white comics fill most of the book. Two very well done, in-depth articles on Captain George Henderson & Corporal John Mansfield provide excellent reading.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

6-NOW & THEN TIMES * #1 * $ 1 * offset * 36 pages * published irregularly * art/strip/ article/ interview zine * 8½x11 * side stapled * Now & Then Times, 103 Queen Street, S., Kitchener, Ontario, Canada *

The cover of N&T is a black & white montage of Spider-Man, Supergirl, Superman, Batman, and Tommy Tomorrow by Jim Mooney. Back cover is of Prince Valiant by Hal Foster.

The inside front cover is a "Things To Worry About" newspaper cartoon by an artist whose name I cannot discern.

An extensive interview with Jim Mooney, complete with illoes & cover repros, is the highlight of the book. An article entitled "Yankee Go Home....and take your comics with you!" follows. It would seem that John Balge' isn't too fond of what he terms, "we colonists!" Hmmph! (John...see, I review Canadian zines, too!) A true nationalist, he demands that the Americanization of Canada cease. Like the true nationalist, he refuses to admit that we do put out some of the finest work, along with France...Mexico...etc.

A strip by Guy Fountain shows promise in the future, but at this time it is nothing to scream about. The story itself stretches the credibility.

An article on Kubert's Tarzan, Doug Wright, and the Canadian white comics precede a mini interview with Kubert. One-page illustrations by Art Cooper & Jim Jones follow several strips by Bob Seguin, and a critique of FANTARAMA #2.

I get the impression that, if I speak harshly of this zine, John will call upon the Canadian Mounted to get me. Tough! Although this is one of the better Canadian fanzines I've seen, it could use a little more work. I happen to know that Canadian fandom is good, so the editor should get things rolling a bit smoother in the next issue.

/Richard Adamson

4-SON OF GRAFAN * #19 * in trade/ with Grafan membership: $ 4 per year * mimeo * 9 pages * monthly ? * newsletter of the Graphic Fantasy & Science Fiction Society* 8½xll * stapled in upper left corner * 8764 New Hampshire,St.Louis, Missourl, 63123 *

"With a GRAFAN membership you will receive Son Of Grafan,Grafan,and Cosmic Bones. Son Of Grafan is published to inform members of meetings, forthcoming events of interest, both local and national, news of a related nature, and as a forum with which to discuss graphic arts and science fiction literature."

(The above is excerpted from SOG.) Son Of Grafan features news which would primarily interest St. Louis residents, or visitors who might be passin' thru.

GRAFAN,their other publication,is more of a fanzine,and would interest even a resident of Tibet. COSMIC BONES I have never seen, so I have no idea what it is.

If you're in the St. Louis area, you'd be well-advised to send for this. If you're not,perhaps something else they produce would make it worth your while.

/Richard Adamson

7-THE BURROUGHS NEWSBEAT * #11 * 25¢or12/$3 * offset * 2 pages * monthly * news/trivia/article/review zine devoted almost solely to the works of E.R.B. *8½xll* * Kevin B. Hancer, 7710 Penn Avenue S. #206, Richfield, Mn., 55423 *

In spite of the fact that TBN is only two pages long,Kevin manages to provide full coverage of miscellaneous news surrounding ERB. The copy is reduced, which condenses it all into the two-page format very nicely.

ERB News Flashes, which take up about 50% of the zine, are the ultimate for the Burroughs completist. They give detailed information regarding practically any mention of Tarzan, John Carter, or the numerous actors who've played the screen versions. If,say,the Boston Times had a small column regarding some facet of Tarzan,you can rest assured that it would find its way to TBN. He has contacts with most publishers and such,who inform him of discontinued and soon to-be-released merchandise. Very carefully compiled.

Also in TBN #11 is a review of The Marvel Times #1,a spot on Frank Merrill, Lovecraft's Follies, and a review of Bantan Of The Islands.

Mr.Hancer offers to supply most everything he mentions,if it is readily obtainable, at cost. He isn't a dealer, but he wants to lend assistance to fans who cannot get offbeat items. (My commendations on this gesture, Kev.)

I suggest you try TBN if you're a Burroughs nut. If you're dubious, just send a quarter. I don't think you'll be too disappointed.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

5-SCARLET CARRIER * #3 * 50¢ * offset * 20pages * published? * horror/SF/mystery movie review/article zine * 8½ x 11 * stapled on left edge * Michael Serrian , 2056 Coyle Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11229 *

SC's biggest fault is their printing. Its offset printing is one of the worst jobs I've ever seen, which is really a shame.

SC has many photos, illoes, and stills, and the layout isn't bad at all. If Mike were to get a better printer, it would look damn good!

In this issue, reviews are featured on FRENZY, SHOCK, WHO SLEW AUNTIE ROO?, and others. Several well-done articles on blood, gothism & SF, and a couple of related poems fill out the issue.

In spite of the printing, the articles and reviews are handled nicely, and the zine is worth the money to the avid film buffs among you.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

THE EXECUTIONER

9-THE EXECUTIONER SERIES (13 books) * by Don Pendleton * Pinnacle Books * 95¢ *

THE EXECUTIONER

" I AM NOT THEIR JUDGE.
I AM THEIR JUDGEMENT.
I AM THEIR EXECUTIONER."

-Mack Bolan

Remember back when the MAFIA stood for Mother's And Father's Italian Association? You know, back when you said the word and got your mouth washed out with brass knuckles? Well, there was one book back in '69 that didn't give a damn! It exposed the Mafia as an organization of vicious murderers, white slavers, and loan sharks. In short, a moral cancer eating away at America's guts.

The book was the first in the Executioner series and told of Mack Bolan's War Against The Mafia.

Now, veteran soldier Mack Bolan was not really bloodthirsty (despite rumors that the priest who Christened him had used human blood instead of water), but when someone caused the death of his parents and sister, he got pissed off! He next discovered that the police's hands were tied, and that did it. The death of five Mafioso bag runners at the hands of a nameless sniper signalled the start of a three-way race: the Mafia wanted Bolan's head; Bolan wanted the Mafia's balls; and the police wanted Bolan to get his ass in protective custody. Bolan wouldn't hear of it, and he literally wiped the Pittsfield Mafia off of the map with a mortar attack.

Bolan then headed West and, in California, he recruited some old army buddies. With his newly-formed Death Squad he began raising hell with the West coast Mafia operation. Finally, however, the members of the Death Squad were captured or killed as they helped Bolan escape a Mafia hardsite.

His face burned into the Mafia's memory, Bolan looked up another ex-army buddy, a plastic surgeon. With a new face, a Battle Mask, he avenged the death of his buddies. When the plastic surgeon dies horribly under Mafia torture you see a pattern beginning to coalesce: all those close to Bolan are turning up as corpses. Yep, Bolan's got a contageous disease: DEATH!

Heading back to the East coast, Bolan got wind of something big going on in Miami. All of the Mafia Capos are meeting to decide what to do about him. Bolan stops by, and gives them the answer..hide! He takes on the whole group with a Stoner Weapons System and leaves them in what became known as the Miami Massacre.

During the first four books, Mack Bolan becomes something of a national folk hero. The government wants him to accept their offer of official sanction, but he says it would cramp his style. The government has little choice: they deport him!!

(continued on following page.....)

After receiving special passports & I.D.'s, he found that his only way out of a Mafia trap was to board a France-bound jet. In France, he found that he was the victim-to-be of a Continental Contract. (I'm not going to talk about Mack Bolan's overseas adventures because it'd only spoil the movie for you; you heard me right, the movie! The first Executioner movie is already in production and, for some reason, they're shooting the fifth adventure first.)

When Mack Bolan arrived back in the states, he faced a Nightmare In New York. In this book, his eyes were opened as to just how big the Mafia was as he found out about their political connections. In the Chicago Wipeout, he destroyed a Mafia plan for a model government: OF THE MOB...BY THE MOB...FOR THE MOB!

In the next three books, Bolan starts some real high level butting-in as he uncovers everything from the start of a Caribbean empire to a tie-in with the Red Chinese.

The Mafia hits close to home, however, when they kidnap his kid brother and girl friend. This is the first time Bolan really lost his head and went on a rampage. And when the two burned bodies showed up, it made everything else he ever did look tame by comparison.

After his Boston Blitz he headed toward Washington D.C. to put a further stop to the Mafia's political aspirations. While paying off his Washington IOU he managed to pick up a chauffer: Ripper Dan, ex-Mafioso.

With all the different characters running that the Executioner has saved, I begin to wonder if Don Pendleton isn't forming the basis for an organization. Bolan's kid brother has been overly anxious to join Mack in his solitary battle, so perhaps we'll see a change in the next couple of books.

No matter what direction the series takes, The Executioner, with seven million copies in print now, must certainly stand out as some sort of fantastic series!

/Arthur Phillips

In the 50's there was Mike Hammer.

The 60's brought us James Bond.

Now, for the 70's, Pinnacle presents Mack Bolan, The Executioner.

PINNACLE BOOKS

POSTERS...

7-THE GHOST RIDER *(copyright 1951, M.E. from the cover of #4) * 12x17 * $1.50 * *by Frank Frazetta * Interstellar Free Traders, Outpost Earth, 1318-A Nottoway Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, 23227 * non-glossy, heavy stock white paper *

From a quality standpoint, this ranks high. The non-glossy stock is a hell of a lot easier on the eyes than fancy glossy. No glare, and such. The color registration is exceptionally close, the few miniscule color overlappings being invisible to the non-critical eye.

The picture itself is an excellent choice. I've long wanted to see a reproduction of this scene because of the supernatural undertones in it. Oh, lest I forget to mention it, Frank Frazetta did not sign this cover, but it is unmistakably his work.

Although the quality and choice of material is superb, the price is rather high. I realize that color printing is expensive, but...

/Rickey L. Shanklin

7-TARZAN *(first published on March 16th, 1941) * 15x20 * $2.00 * full color, on non-glossy,heavy stock white paper * by Burne Hogarth * Interstellar Free Traders, Outpost Earth, 1318-A Nottoway Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, 23227 *

As in the above poster, quality is a major factor. This is a reproduction from a sunday paper, on the same size paper, which gives it a nice look.

The reproduction is of one of Hogarth's best pieces,and deserves to be preserved in any form. As in the above case, however, the price is unjustified.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

6-THE AVENGERS * illustrated by Art Cooper * 7½ x 10 * full color on semi-glossy card stock * 50 ¢ * Vincent Marchesano, 19 Richwill Road, Apartment #308, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada *

This,a fan effort done for Spectrum Publications,is the fourth poster they have offered for sale. It depicts Thor, Giant Man, The Black Panther, and The Hulk in a battle scene. Art is a more-than-competant artist, and it shows in this poster. One unfortunate defect is that the printer printed the colors out of order. Black should always be printed last, to cover up the color overlapping. In this case, black was printed first,allowing the colors to overlap it, I hope Vince gives the printer what he deserves for this blunder!

But, for 50¢ it's still a good job. The fifth poster, Mr. Miracle & Orion, in color, is set for printing in November.

/Richard Adamson

GRAVE DIGGINGS...

VAMPIRELLA #21...regarding several rather inexcusable blunders:

The cover of Vampi #21 was, perhaps, this issue's single redeeming factor. The installment of Vampirella,which led off the book, came close to ending it. No fault lies with T.Casey Brennan's prologue. No,my friends,blame rests solely on the shoulders of Chad Archer, the writer. "Slitherers of the Sand",the story's title, was a terrible take-off of Frank Herbert's immortal DUNE. Although few elements of Herbert's novel were used (dunes,sand,a gigantic sand-eating worm, and the value of moisture),the swipe is plainly evident. Had justice been done to Herbert's novel, I would have remained silent. In this case, however, it was not. (Chad Archer, incidentally, is Steve Englehart!)

The slug which chases Vampirella and her companions digests sand,and leaves a trail of waste. So,too,did the worms from DUNE, but at least the DUNE worms were credible! The slug in Vampirella digests sand, which is almost pure silicon, and leaves a waste trail of sulfur. Preposterous! The only connection sulfur and silicon have is that silicon is combustable in the vapor of sulfur. Sulfur is very definitely not a waste-product of sand.

Warren's advertisement book reviews follow the aforementioned travesty but, even discounting the above, Vampirella is becoming boringly redundant.

Now,every once in a while,you come across an error so obvious that it reaches out and throttles you. "Puppy Love", a text piece by Chuck McNaughton, did that at one point. The hero/lead character is,near the end of the story,transformed into"...the writhing, straining, loathsome, snarling and spitting image of CEREBUS, a nine-headed demon-dog of Greek mythology."

First of all,it's spelled C-E-R-B-E-R-U-S. Secondly,Cerberus was never represented as having nine heads. The HYDRA was! Cerberus was originally depicted as having fifty heads, although the common tale portrays him with three. Occasionally, he had certain serpentine attributes, but never nine heads. One truly begins to wonder what the Editor of Warren's line does! No writer is perfect,but that's what Editors, and Editor/Publishers, are for...aren't they?

Mind-boggling.....

/Rickey L. Shanklin

NIGHTMARE #10...horror mood, or horrible mood?????

Skywald's first Horror-Mood issue (PSYCHO #9) was,in many peoples' opinion, a dismal flop. Their second Horror-Mood issue, this one, proves to be better.

The cover, by Kelly, is really beautiful. Inside, there is more. Now, Skywald doesn't always use the greatest artists, and a few of their stories suck, but I must say that they've improved immensely as of late. Two stories in Nightmare #10 stood out. The first,"The Proverbial Killer",is a re-hashed plot written by Doug Moench, and must have involved a considerable amount of research. It was handled beautifully,and should be read slowly and meticulously. The other, the third installment of the continuing Gargoyles (excuse me, second installment!) uses the halftone process, and is very well done. Very well, indeed.....

/Rickey L. Shanklin

DOUBLE-TAKES...

SWANK may have dropped "Jones' Touch" since the current issue isn't carrying it.

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THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN finally came out. Some don't like it, some do. Personally, I think it's a helluva' lot better than any of the past attempts. For once, Marvel's come out with something I'm really looking forward to reading! National's SPAWN OF FRANKENSTEIN falls behind Marvel's version, and Mike's art is by no means the best he can do on the strip.

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Re: THE MIKE CATRON SHOW, as reviewed last issue. His address, at present, is: Mike Catron, c/o University of Maryland, Room 120 Annapolis Hall, College Park, Maryland, 20742 *

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Somebody may have noticed the Kaluta illustration for my "Editor's Cracks" section; no one may have. At any rate, I recently received HERITAGE for review and, while reading it, I found out where it's from: a story entitled "Crash-Landing" by Mike Kaluta. It's actually a preliminary sketch, but my thanks to Doug for understanding. (Doug Murray, editor & copyright holder, that is!)

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The current issue of ETCETERA features, for the first time, Warren News...upside-down! My sources tell me that Warren demanded his section be printed that way.

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GORE CREATURES, a movie zine, features a column entitled "Grave Diggings". I was not aware of this when I conceived my title by the same name. (Sorry Gary!)

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Somebody finally had the sense to pull Tuska off of IRON MAN! The new issue,#55, features Starlin/Esposito. Damn good, too. It's hard to believe a comic could improve so much, so fast, but it did. The replacement lasts until #56, tho.

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Several editors have informed me that their zines are selling well enough that that they don't need them reviewed. I can't change their minds, nor can I see where a review couldn't boost their sales. If you want to see them reviewed in ALTERNATIVES before you spend your bread, drop 'em a card. O.K?

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MONSTER TIMES NEWS...from the mouths of babes (would you believe Joe Brancatelli?). Issue #16 is now being mailed; issue #17 is at the printer. Due to tough distribution, MONSTER TIMES is going monthly.

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THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-MAN--- A ROCKOMIC! is a new record album from Charisma Records (a subsidiary of Buddah Records). It runs 35 minutes, and has Spidey on the album cover. Inside are a fold-out poster and a special comic. It features The Kingpin, The Lizard, The Vulture, The Green Goblin...and others.

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THE BUYER'S GUIDE has had a rather inexplicable mail delivery as of late. People in my area are receiving the same issue up to three weeks apart. People near Illinois manage to send in subscriptions to ALTERNATIVES before I see my own ad. Of some $50, or more, sent in for orders, about 40% is being returned on sold items. In other words, you have to live near Illinois to get what you order before it's sold. Alan mails everything on the same day and, if you live on the East or West coast, you'll get your copy weeks after those near Illinois. BULK RATE??????????

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HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ! ** ! ** ! ** ! ** ! ** ! ** ! ** ! ** !

BOOKS...

9-MAN, MYTH & MAGIC *(an illustrated encyclopedia of the supernatural) * 24 volumes * $4.39 each/ volume #1 free * total: $100.97 * Marshall Cavendish Corp., 6 Commercial Street, Hicksville, New York, 11801 * 8½ x 12 *

The basic differences between MM&M, and Cavendish's other publication, Story Of Life, is the content. Although these are hardbound, they still contain the hoarde of pictures and photographs obvious in everything published by MC. In some ways, this is bad; in others, not. The choice of pictures is excellent, and the text is adequate, but could be more precise and detailed.

Quality is the most inherent factor in MM&M. The color reproduction is a hell of a lot better than most, and the type is extremely easy to read.

Although the only way to really appreciate the set is by sight, a condensed index of sorts follows...

VOLUME 1 - Aberdeen Witches to Astrology (Special Features: Life After Death.. Black Magic And Witchcraft..Luck And Fate..Possession And Trance)
VOLUME 2 - Atavism to Body (Special Features: Religions East & West..Magic And Mysticism..The Meaning Of Myth..Psychical Research Of Today..Divine King And Dying God)
VOLUME 3 - Boehme, Jacob to Cayce, Edgar (Special Feature: The Roots Of Ritual Magic)
VOLUME 4 - Celts to Cult Of The Dead (No Special Features)
VOLUME 5 - Cure Of Ars to Drugs (Includes Section On Arthur Conan Doyle)
VOLUME 6 - Druids to European Witch Persecutions (No Special Features)
VOLUME 7 - Evil to Flood (Beautiful cover photo of Christopher Lee as Dracula; in-depth article on horror films, etc. inside)
VOLUME 8 - Fludd, Robert to Golem (No Special Features)
VOLUME 9 - Good Sheperd to Herbs (No Special Features)
VOLUME 10- Hercules to Immortality (No Special Features)
VOLUME 11- Imp to Kali (No Special Features)
VOLUME 12- Kamikazi to Magpie And Rook (Includes Loki and Lucifer)
VOLUME 13- Mahatmas to Meteors (No Special Features)
VOLUME 14- Mexico And Central America to New Guinea (No Special Features)

(VOLUMES 14 through 24 will be covered in a future issue.) /Rickey L. Shanklin

8-EDGE: THE LONER * #1 * 95¢ * paperback * 138 pages * Pinnacle Books *

If you're a sadist, a blood freak, a western fan, or a sick individual you should love this. If you just like a fast-paced story, with plenty of action, you'll still like it. I hate westerns, but I thought it was great.

George G. Gilman's character, Edge, was born Josiah Hedges. After he finds his brother sadistically murdered, he vows to avenge his death by tracking down the men responsible. The men responsible are five soldiers who served with him under General Grant, the sixth having been killed by his companions before they fled.

After a vulture rips out the murderer's entrails and flies off with them, Edge looks down at him and says, mirthlessly, "You never did have any guts, Rhett!" That, friends, is a slight sample of the inherent deeds and adventures.

This story is not for the faint-hearted reader.

/Rickey L. Shanklin

MUSINGS & MUMBLINGS...

AN APPEAL: There are several items which I am seeking, for which I will pay reasonable prices. They are listed below...

BARBARIANS OF MARS by Edward P. Bradbury...London paperback (Cawthorne cover)
EVERGREEN REVIEW MAGAZINES
GALAXY SCIENCE-FICTION NOVELS
THE COMING OF CONAN/ CONAN THE BARBARIAN/ SWORD OF CONAN/ KING CONAN...
...the above are hardbacks. Must have dust jackets & be in very good shape.
THE HARLOT KILLER, THE STORY OF JACK THE RIPPER IN FACT AND FICTION by Anthony Boucher
THE LODGER by Belloc Lowndes
THE MYSTERY OF JACK THE RIPPER by Leonard Matters (1928 London)
RITUAL IN THE DARK by Colin Wilson (1960)
Any manuscripts, articles, or items relating to Jack The Ripper.
Any manuscripts, items, etc. relating to Dracula, or Prince Vlad Tepes.

I would appreciate it if anyone could help me with the above. Anyone who can supply the addresses of STEVE DITKO, or GIL KANE, will receive a free 4-issue subscription to ALTERNATIVES. Thanx!

/Rickey L. Shanklin

I recently mailed a copy of ALTERNATIVES to Robert Bloch, along with a few comments on his first comic adaptation for Marvel Comics. From Bob, comes:

Dear R.S,

Thanks for ALTERNATIVES; always interested in your reaction to books, comics, etc.

As for "Yours Truly, Jack The Ripper", in Marvel Comics' Journey Into Mystery--- I was glad to see how easily the story had been updated in terms of today: hip culture. But what really got to me is that not only Jack The Ripper but the story itself seems to bear a charmed life. Next year it will be 30 years old--and during that time it has made over 30 appearances: magazines, anthologies, collections, radio, television, and now as a comic. A strange literary history for this little yarn! But they did a good job, I think.

All Best,
Robert Bloch

Didja' know????...

The largest cartoon ever published was one covering two floors (35 feet by 30 feet) on a building opposite the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, depicting the enslavement by the U.S.S.R. of eight Eastern European nations!

The longest-lived newspaper comic strip has been the Katzenjammer Kids (Hans and Fritz) first published in the U.S. in 1897 and currently being drawn by Joe Musial.

The most-read newspaper comic strip is believed to be "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schultz (born 1922) which since 1950 has grown to be syndicated in 1,000 U.S. newspapers with a total readership of 90,000,000!

Since 1931 the British novelist John Creasey(born 1908) has, under his own name and 13 aliases, written 529 books totalling more than 40,000,000 words!

As of September, 1969, the movie Me Tarzan, You Jane had been running in one Egyptian movie theatre since September, 1949!